

REMARKS

In response to the above identified Office Action, Applicants have amended their application and respectfully request reconsideration thereof.

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-8, 18-21 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8, 18-21 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for the reason that Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) does not disclose each and every limitation of claims 1, 18, and 30-33 of the present application.

Claim 1 includes the following limitation:

“Communicating user interface information to the client via a communications network, the user interface information ... specifying a feedback interface facilitating user input of feedback information for at least first and second transactions of the plurality of transactions.”
(Emphasis added).

Application 09/515, 575, page 30.

In rejecting the above limitation of claim 1, the Office Action points to the following discussion on page 4, lines 8-9 of Boulton et. al. as being anticipatory:

"The method further includes displaying an indication of the number of records in the combined set that included the indicated attribute identifiers."

Boulton et al., WO 95/17711, page 4, lines 8-9.

Clearly, the above quoted text of Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) does not provide any disclosure of a feedback interface that facilitates user input, much less user input of feedback information. It will be noted that the above limitation of claim 1 requires the feedback interface to facilitate user input of feedback information for multiple transactions (i.e., the first and second transactions). In contrast, the above quoted text of Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) merely describes the displaying of an indication of the number of records in a combined set.

Claim 1 also includes the following limitation:

"receiving the feedback information provided through the feedback interface, for each of at least the first and second transactions, the feedback information being received via the communications network." (Emphasis added).

Application 09/515, 575, page 30.

The Office Action, in rejecting claim 1, contends that the above limitation is anticipated by the following disclosure in Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711):

"...the method also includes the steps of receiving an indication of a change in the reviewer's visualization preferences, refiltering the feedback records." (Emphasis added).

Boulton et al., WO 95/17711, page 4, lines 10-11.

The above quoted text of Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) discloses that a computer environment receives an "indication" of a reviewer's visualization preference that is used to filter feedback records, presumably for further viewing. In addition, the above quoted text discloses that the "indication" is not saved as feedback; but rather is used to filter and display feedback records.

In summary, Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 1, as required to support a rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As dependent claims are deemed to include all limitation of claims from which they depend, the rejection of claims 2-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is also addressed by the above remarks, and the amendments contained herein.

Claim 18 includes the following limitation:

"displaying a feedback input for each of the plurality of transactions within the user interface as displayed on the display device, wherein each feedback input is displayed so as to indicate an association with respective transaction identification information." (Emphasis added).

Application 09/515, 575, page 34.

The Office Action, in rejecting claim 18, contends that the above limitation is anticipated by the following disclosure in Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711):

“The method further includes displaying an indication of the number of records in the combined set that include the indicated attribute identifiers.The attribute identifiers are preferably displayed in bar chart form or pie chart form, and are preferably arranged into attribute categories, wherein just one attribute identifier in each attribute category may be stored in the feedback record.”

Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711), WO 95/17711, excerpt from page 4, lines 8-16.

In the above reference, Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) discloses a method for displaying a bar chart. The above reference discloses that a set of bars represents an attribute category and an individual bar represents the total number of feedback records identified by a specific attribute identifier. Thus, the above reference discloses a method whereby the display of an attribute identifier is not associated with a specific feedback record; rather, a method is disclosed for viewing feedback output rather than feedback input.

Claim 18 requires a method whereby a user interface to harvest feedback is displayed to include a feedback input for each transaction. For an exemplary implementation of such a user interface, the Examiner is referred to Figure 11 of the present application, which shows a user interface that displays three transactions and three feedback input areas, respectively. The feedback input is to harvest feedback from a user. To clarify this aspect

of claim 18, the claim has been amended to include the following limitation, which corresponds somewhat to the limitation of canceled claim 20:

“...and wherein each feedback input comprises an input field to receive at least one of text, numeric and alpha-numeric information.”

Application 09/515, 575, page 34.

In summary, Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 18 (amended), as required to support a rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). As dependent claims are deemed to include all limitation of claims from which they depend, the rejection of claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. is 102(e) is also addressed by the above remarks, and the amendments contained herein.

Claim 30 includes the followed limitation:

“Communicating user interface information to the client via a communications network, the user interface information ... specifying an interface facilitating user input of comments pertaining to each of the at least first and second items of the plurality of items.”
(Emphasis added).

Application 09/515, 575, page 36.

In rejecting the above limitation of claim 30, the Office Action again points to the discussion on page 4, lines 8-9, of Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) as being anticipatory. The Applicants disagree that this disclosure is in any

way anticipatory for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim

1.

The Office Action, in rejecting claim 30, also contends that the above limitation is anticipated by the following additional disclosures in Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711):

- I. Feedback System 40 (Page 12, line 16-page13, line 28); and
- II. Record 174 (Page 30, lines 9-34).

The above disclosures do not disclose an interface for facilitating a user input of comments pertaining to each of the items.

Disclosure I is a description of Feedback System 40 entailing several feedback interfaces 42 and several viewing interfaces 46 (see also Figure 2). As disclosed in Disclosure I, Feedback interfaces 42 accept user input; however, Feedback interfaces 42 appear to accept user input with respect to a single feedback record (see Figure 2).

Disclosure I also describes viewing interfaces 46 that display multiple feedback records. In addition, Disclosure I also discloses that a reviewer may respond to feedback items (Page 13, line 2); however, Disclosure I fails to disclose which of the two interfaces, interface 42 or 46, the reviewer uses to enter the response. Finally, Disclosure I fails to disclose how interfaces 42 or

46 might possibly disclose the additional limitation of claim 30, requiring user input of comments pertaining to each of the items.

Disclosure II is a description of Record 174 and its associated fields.

Disclosure II does not disclose a user interface and therefore cannot be said to anticipate claim 30.

Claim 30 also includes the following limitation:

"receiving the comments, provided through the input interface, for each of the at least first and second items, ..." (Emphasis added).

Application 09 / 515,575, page 36.

The Office Action, in rejecting claim 30, contends that the above limitation is anticipated by the following disclosers in Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711):

- I. Reviewers visualization preference (Page 4, lines 9-16);
- II. Description of attributes (Page 15, line 28 – page 16, line 26);
- III. Description of feedback record 174 (Page 33, lines 8-24).

The above disclosures do not disclose an input interface capable of receiving multiple comments for multiple items. Disclosure I is discussed in traversal of claim 1 and is also responsive to rejection of claim 30. Disclosure II describes retrieval of different types of attributes through a feedback

interface 42; however, Disclosure II fails to disclose that feedback interface 42 displays multiple feedback records. Finally, disclosure III describes a feedback record 174 without describing an input interface.

Claim 30 requires receiving comment information for a plurality of items. For example the invention defined by claim 30 may be embodied, as taught in Figure 12, as a user interface screen that receives comment input with respect to the exemplary items "skippy", "pete1", and "mark1". In contrast, Disclosure I describes a method whereby a computer environment receives a display preference "indicator" to display a type of feedback record. The "indicator" is not feedback and it is not associated with a specific feedback record. Further contrasting the above limitation of claim 30, disclosure II describes retrieval of attributes but only with respect to a single feedback record via interface 42. Finally, Disclosure III contrasts with the above limitation of claim 30 because it fails disclose an input interface. The above disclosures in Boutlon et al. (WO 95/17711) therefore cannot be said to anticipate the above quoted limitation of claim 30 because the above disclosures do not disclose an input interface capable of receiving multiple comments for multiple items.

In summary, Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 30, as required to support a rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent claim 32 and 33 includes a limitation corresponding substantially to the above-discussed limitations of claim 30. Accordingly, Applicants request that the above remarks contained herein also be considered when examining these other independent claims for allowability.

Claim 31 includes the following limitation:

"displaying a comment input for each of the plurality of items within the user interface as displayed on the display device wherein each comment input is displayed so as to indicate an association with respective transaction identification information." (Emphasis added).

Application 09/515, 575, page 37.

The Office Action, in rejecting claim 31, contends that the above limitation is anticipated by the following disclosure in Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711):

Figure 23 is a flow diagram illustrating step 346 of Figure 22, in which the database of feedback records is scanned and a visualizer record is created for each of the feedback records accessible to the reviewer. The process begins in step 56....

Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711), page 56, lines 10-13.

The above disclosure does not describe a display; rather it describes a process whereby a database of feedback records is scanned and a visualizer record is created. Indeed, the above excerpt is representative of the total reference (Page 56, lines 10-37), which, in its entirety, does not disclose a method for inputting comments on a display.

Claim 31 requires a method for displaying comment input for a plurality of items within a user interface (merely for example, see Figure 12 with respect to comment input area provided for exemplary “skippy”, “pete1” and “mark1”). In contrast, the above quoted reference to Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) discloses a process for scanning feedback records and creating visualizer records. Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) (page 56, lines 10-37) discloses that the status on a read status flag and a closed status flag on the feedback record may be updated; however, the reference does not disclose how these statuses are inputted from a display. A process for scanning, creating and updating records is not a display.

Claim 31 requires a method whereby a user interface to harvest feedback is displayed to include a comment input for each transaction. For an exemplary implementation of such a user interface, the Examiner is referred to Figure 11 of the present application, which shows a user interface that displays three transactions and three comment input areas, respectively. The comment input is to harvest feedback from a user. To clarify this aspect of claim 31, the claim has been amended to include the following limitation:

“...and wherein each comment input comprises an input field to receive at least one of text, numeric and alpha-numeric information.”

In summary, Boutlon et al. (WO 95/17711) does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 31, as required to support a rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 10-17, 23, and 25-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a), as being unpatentable over Boulton et al. (WO 95/17711) in view of Official Notice of features well known in the art.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 10-17, 23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) for the reasons set out below. The prior art references when combined do not teach or suggest all of claim limitations of the independent claims of the present application.

If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 then, any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious and rejection of claims 10-17, 23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) is also addressed by the above remarks regarding independent claims 1 and 18.

In summary, Applicants believe that all rejections presented in the Office Action have been fully addressed and withdrawal of these rejections

is respectfully requested. Applicants furthermore believe that all claims are now in a condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact André Marais at (408) 947-8200.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS:

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Unamended) A method of harvesting feedback pertaining to transactions facilitated by a network-based transaction facility, the method including:
 - identifying a plurality of transactions associated with a first user;
 - communicating user interface information to a client via a communications network, the user interface information including transaction information concerning at least first and second transactions of the plurality of transactions and specifying a feedback interface facilitating user input of feedback information for each of the at least first and second transactions of the plurality of transactions;
 - and
 - receiving the feedback information, provided through the feedback interface, for each of at least the first and second transactions, the feedback information being received via the communications network.

2. (Unamended) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying of the plurality of transactions comprises identifying completed transactions in which the first user participated.

3. (Unamended) The method of claim 2 including identifying the completed transactions as transactions in which the first user participated as a buyer.

4. (Unamended) The method of claim 2 including identifying the completed transaction as transactions in which the first user participated as a seller.

5. (Unamended) The method of claim 2 wherein the identifying comprises identifying the completed transactions in which the first user participated within a predetermined time period.

6. (Unamended) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication of the user interface information comprises communicating a markup language document and wherein the transaction information includes text information describing at least the first and second transactions.

7. (Unamended) The method of claim 6 wherein the user interface information defines a respective feedback input field associated with each of the first and second transactions via which the feedback information for each of at least the first and second transactions is user-inputted.
8. (Unamended) The method of claim 8 wherein the user interface information defines a type indicator via which type information, indicating a feedback type for the feedback information for each of the at least first and second transactions, is user-inputted.
9. (Unamended) The method of claim 8 wherein the type information indicates the feedback type as being any one of a group including positive feedback, negative feedback and neutral feedback.
10. (Unamended) The method of claim 8 wherein the type indicator comprises any one of a group including a collection of check boxes and a collection of radio buttons.
11. (Unamended) The method of claim 6 wherein the user interface information defines a respective skip indicator for each of the at least first and second transactions, each skip indicator being user-selectable to indicate whether or not feedback is being provided via the feedback interface for an associated transaction.

12. (Unamended) The claim of 11 wherein each of the respective skip indicators comprises any one of a group comprising a check box and a radio button.
13. (Unamended) The method of claim 1 wherein the user interface information defines a filter input field via which a filter criteria is user-inputted, the filter criteria being applied to the plurality of transactions to define a subset thereof for display via the feedback interface.
14. (Unamended) The method of claim 13 wherein the filter criteria comprises a user identifier identifying a second user associated with at least one transaction of the plurality of transactions.
15. (Unamended) The method of claim 13 wherein the filter criteria comprises a transaction identifier identifying at least one of the plurality of transactions.
16. (Unamended) The method of claim 1 including populating a feedback data structure with the feedback information for each of the at least first and second transactions.

17. (Unamended) The method of claim 1 wherein the transaction information includes any one of a group including user, item, description and date information.

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C4 > 18 (Amended) A method of displaying a user interface to harvest feedback pertaining to transactions facilitated by a computerized transaction facility, the method including:

displaying transaction identification information for each of a plurality of transactions within a user interface displayed on a display device; and

displaying a feedback input for each of the plurality of transactions within the user interface as displayed on the display device,

wherein each feedback input is displayed so as to indicate an association with respective transaction identification information[.] and wherein each feedback input comprises an input field to receive at least one of text, numeric and alpha-numeric information.

19. (Unamended) The method of claim 18 wherein the transaction identification information includes any one of a group including user information identifying a party to a transaction, item information

identifying a subject of a transaction and date information indicating a date associated with the transaction period.

20. (Canceled) [The method of claim 18 wherein the feedback input comprises an input field for receiving any one of text, numeric or alpha-numeric information.]

21. (Unamended) The method of claim 18 wherein the feedback input comprises at least one of a plurality of user-selectable feedback options.

22. (Unamended) The method of claim 21 wherein the plurality of user-selectable feedback options are presented in the form of a drop-down menu.

23. (Unamended) The method of claim 21 wherein the plurality of user-selectable feedback options are type options that indicate a feedback type associated to feedback information.

24. (Unamended) The method of claim 22 wherein the feedback type includes any one of a group including positive feedback, negative feedback and neutral feedback.

25. (Unamended) The method of claim 21 wherein the plurality of user-selectable feedback options are presented as being user-selectable by any of a group including a plurality of check boxes and a plurality of radio buttons.
26. (Unamended) The method of claim 18 including displaying a skip input for each of the plurality of transactions within the user interface, each skip input being user-selectable to indicate whether or not feedback is being provided for associated transaction identification information.
27. (Unamended) The method of claim 18 wherein the user interface comprises a markup language document displayed within a browser.
28. (Unamended) The method of claim 18 wherein the association is indicated by display of a respective feedback input proximate the specific transaction identification information.
29. (Unamended) The method of claim 18 wherein the association is indicated by display of a graphical indication that indicates the association between the respective feedback input and the specific transaction identifier information.

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30. (Unamended) A method of harvesting comments pertaining to items of a network-based transaction facility, the method including:

identifying a plurality of items;

communicating user interface information to a client via a communications network, the user interface information including item information concerning at least first and second items of the plurality of items and specifying an interface facilitating user input of comments pertaining to each of the at least the first and second items of the plurality of items; and

receiving the comments, provided through the input interface, for each of the at last first and second items, the comments being received via the communications network.

31. (Amended) A method of displaying a user interface to harvest comments pertaining to items of a computerized transaction facility, the method including:

displaying item identification information for each of a plurality of items within a user interface displayed on a display device; and

~~displaying a comment input for each of the plurality of items within the user interface as displayed on the display device~~

~~wherein each comment input is displayed so as to indicate an association with respective transaction identification information[.] and wherein each comment input comprises an input field to receive at least one of text, numeric and alpha-numeric information.~~

32. (Unamended) A system for harvesting comments pertaining to items of a network-based transaction facility, the system including:

~~a search function to identify a plurality of items specified by a first user;~~

~~a display function to communicate user interface information to a client via a communications network, the user interface information including item information concerning at least first and second items of the plurality of items and specifying a comment interface facilitating user input of comment information for each of the at least first and second items of the plurality of items; and~~

~~a receive function to receive the comment information, provided through the comment interface, for each of the at least first and~~

~~second items, the comment information being received via the communications network.~~

33. (Unamended) A system for harvesting comment information pertaining to an item of a network-based transaction facility, the system including:

first means for identifying a plurality of items specified by a first user;

~~second means for communicating user interface information to a client via a communications network, the user interface information including item information concerning at least first and second items of the plurality of items and specifying a comment interface facilitating user input of comment information for each of the at least first and second items for the plurality of items; and~~

~~third means for receiving the comment information, provided through the comment interface, for each of the at least first and second items, the comment information being received via the communications network.~~